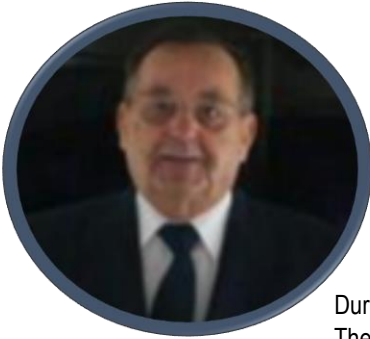


Roy Reaville



Roy was licensed as a commercial pilot in Campbell River in May 1956 and moved to Port Hardy two years later to fly for **BC Airlines**. He flew the BC coast for the next eight years, initially living in a trailer. From the trailer, he moved into ex-military accommodation that included an apartment complete with its own drying tower for parachutes, then into "company supplied housing"—five houses barged from Franklin River and located on Airport Road (since renamed to Byng Road). Roy stayed with **BC Airlines**, which later merged into **PWA**, until his retirement to Alberta in 1994.

During the summer, the Port Hardy base operated three or four amphibious DH Beavers and one Cessna 180. There were scheduled mail flights through Alert Bay, Minstrel Island, Simoon Sound and Wells Pass, including several passenger stops along the way. Which planes were used for these flights depended on the route and load.

There were regular scheduled flights all over the north coast from Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands) to Prince Rupert to Holberg on the tip of Holberg Inlet. At the time, West Vancouver Island was not accessible other than by water or air and **BC Airlines** made regular stops at Winter Harbour, Mahatta River, Quatsino, Port Alice and Jeune Landing. They also ferried military staff, who flew into Port Hardy with **PWA**, to the Military Radar station at Holberg. These flights often included loggers travelling to the logging camps around the Inlet.

Operating out of Port Hardy, Roy's fellow pilots included Red Croisdale, Don Thompson, Bill Groth, Harry Brown, Jack Malischewski, Stan Kardahl, Chuck Ford and Dave Stronach, all included on the mural. Celebrities travelling through included Bing Crosby and Bob Hope.

At the end of 1966, Roy moved from Port Hardy onto larger aircraft in Vancouver, becoming Chief Pilot on the 737. He was considered a bit of a renegade as he carried a leather purse, unheard of at that time. It has been suggested it was an intentional ploy to annoy older, more conservative fellow workers.

On April 21st 1984, Roy was the Captain of **PWA's** final Hercules flight with aircraft CF-PWN from the Panarctic Oils base camp at Rea Point on Melville Island. It was a historic event as the Hercules Division was a structural component that built the airline.

Son Dave followed in his father's footsteps, flying floatplanes on the coast and going on to fly for Air BC/Air Canada Express. Dave's son Kristopher is an Air Canada B737 Captain. Roy and Dave both logged time in Beaver CF-FHT.

Born: February 1936
Grandview, Manitoba

Family: wife Audrey daughter of Jack King Lee who opened CYBL airport

3 Children, David, Carrie, Kevin
Pilot

BC Airlines

PWA (Pacific Western Airlines)



Three Generations of Reaville Pilots. Roy, Kris, and Dave



Kris and Dave Reaville and Chuck Ford

